

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the examination of the application. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 6-25, 29, 30, 35, and 36 are allowable. However, in view of the remarks that follow, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are currently in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Claims 1-5, 26-28, and 31-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0125690, hereinafter *Hermansson*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that *Hermansson* and the presently claimed invention were, at the time the claimed invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person. Therefore, 35 U.S.C. § 103(c)(1) precludes *Hermansson* from rendering the present application obvious. *Hermansson* cannot be used in establishing a case of *prima facie* obviousness against the presently claimed invention.


In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has not made a proper rejection of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of all currently pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Reply, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 12-3-2008

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